

## Resolution 4

### T.E.E.M. Candidate Voting Status at the ECSW Synod Assembly

WHEREAS Individuals in the THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION for EMERGING MINISTRIES (T.E.E.M.) program are serving ECSW communities of faith and providing many aspects of ordained ministry to the people in those congregations, and

WHEREAS People in the T.E.E.M. program serving in our Synod must register as guests and are not eligible to vote, speak, or be seated with the registered voting members at the Synod Assembly, and

WHEREAS This resolution applies to a small number of people who are not ordained and therefore would comply with the 60% laity, 40% clergy section of S7.21 of the Synod Constitution, and

WHEREAS Members in the T.E.E.M. program have their membership and are full voting members of an ECSW congregation in compliance with the Synod Constitution, and

WHEREAS Individuals in the T.E.E.M. program, while similar in many ways to other seminarians enrolled in tracks to ordination, are also very atypical and distinct in their ordination track, thus the individuals serving in the T.E.E.M. program are in a particular unique group,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

that the following be added to the Bylaws of the East Central Synod of Wisconsin in accordance with S18.21, "Individuals who are in the T.E.E.M. program serving ECSW congregations and who are members of an ECSW Congregation are given lay voting membership to the Synod Assembly. Such voting membership shall be the same as that given to lay Synod Council members (S7.28) and not be included in the number of lay voting members congregations receive via the constitution (S7.21)."

Endorsed by –

The Rev. Mike Thomas  
Hope, Wautoma  
pastormike@hopelutheranwautoma.com

The Rev. Glenn Chase, Retired  
The Rev. Jan LaVake, Retired  
The Rev. Karen Jewell-vanBuskirk, Retired  
The Rev. Blaine Niskanen, St. John's & St. Paul, Westfield  
The Rev. Connie Weiss, Christ Our Savior, Oshkosh  
The Rev. Rich Collier, Retired  
Deacon Pam Werth, Retired  
The Rev. Kristina Jensen, St. John, Saxeville  
The Rev. Maggie Berndt-Dreyer, Peace, Oshkosh  
The Rev. Crystal Lee, Church of Our Savior, Fond du Lac  
The Rev. Sara Gorman, Redeemer, Plymouth  
The Rev. Kimberley Stowell, St. Stephen, Rosendale; Zion, Fairwater

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**Resolutions Committee Recommendation:**

Submit to Synod Assembly for consideration and possible action.

**Resolutions Committee Rationale:**

The proposed resolution merits the attention of the Assembly.

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**Notes or Resources**

Which Rostered Ministers have voice and vote?

**All Ministers of Word** and Sacrament (pastors) and Ministers of Word and Service (deacons) Under Call from a congregation or synod council.

**All Rostered Ministers** who are serving as Interim Ministers during the time of Synod Assembly. (Interim Ministry is a specific contract and does not include regular preaching supply or other contract ministry.)

**Voting Retired Rostered Ministers** who have been appointed or elected as 10% of their total roster number.

**Synod Council Members** who are not otherwise identified as voting members of congregations shall be granted the privilege of both voice and vote as members of the synod assembly.

Who has Voice but not Vote?

Rostered Ministers who are Retired, On Disability, or On Leave from Call shall have voice but not vote unless previously identified as Voting Retired Rostered Ministers.

From [“Presider and Assembly”](#) by Bishop Anne Edison-Albright

A **TEEM candidate** is a lay person from an underserved community in the ELCA (new mission start, rural ministry, racial or ethnic minority ministry, etc.) lifted up by their congregation to serve as a pastor while receiving a shortened course of practical training; they become a rostered minister in the ELCA, and after their training and certification are able to serve as pastors anywhere in the ELCA.

From the ECSW Constitution <sup>†</sup>S18.21.

This synod may adopt bylaws not in conflict with this constitution or with the constitution and bylaws of the churchwide organization. This synod may amend its bylaws at any meeting of the Synod Assembly by a two-thirds vote of voting members of the assembly present and voting. Newly adopted bylaws and amendments to existing bylaws shall be reported to the secretary of this church.